

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
September 24, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Derek or Erin at the Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3013 if you have any questions.

September 24, 2013

Agenda

- Introductions
- Mayor Cook's Remarks
- Snow Removal Information 2013-2014
- Speed Limit Changes
- INDOT US 31 Update
- Closing Remarks and Adjournment



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself. The room went around and introduced themselves one at a time.

Jim announced the passing of John Dippel.

II. Mayor Cook's Remarks

Mayor spoke on John Dippel and his legacy. Information about John's life and funeral arrangements can be found here: <http://bussellfamilyfunerals.com/sitemaker/sites/BUSSEL1/obit.cgi?user=1100896Dippel>

Mayor also mentioned that the City be pushing to get more neighborhoods involved in the WeCAN group. Additionally, he introduced Erin Verplank, new Communications Director for the City.

Mayor opened the floor for questions:

Q: Duke Energy added wires through Oak Manor – affecting most expensive lots – 35 feet on each side. Anything the City can do?

A: Yes, we will try. Mayor currently meets with Duke once a quarter. We've been working with right-of-way issues with a few utility companies as they have little disregard for personal property. Mayor will call Duke tomorrow.

Q: What is the difference with overhead or underground lines?

A: Duke says cost is double. City has asked for underground and Duke says no.

Q: When will bridge over Cool Creek to be completed?

A: Beginning of December 2013

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Q: When will 161st open at the Monon Trail?

A: The road is now open!

III. Snow Plowing Update

Jim updated the group on the status of the Snow Plowing policy as it pertains to contractors vs. City plowing. The update is as follow:

City will plow three (3) inches or more on all roads that are in our inventory, i.e. public streets. Neighborhoods opt in to city plowing or opt out if you wish to hire your own contractors. If your neighborhood opts to contract these services themselves, the city will leave it to your contractor to satisfy your community hand handle any complaints. The governing body of the neighborhood must notify their residents about their decision to private plow and include the contractor's name along with the phone number of who will handle any inquiries or complaints about snow removal and road conditions. The private contractors name and phone number also must be on file with the City of Westfield in the event we are called. We then can refer them to the proper contractor who can address their concerns. These private contractors must meet city standards and include salting when slippery road conditions and icing are present. This must be addresses in any private contract for snow plowing entered into by the neighborhood.

The policy will help to identify neighborhoods that prefer a contractor instead of using City services.

Q: Do you have the City standards available?

A: Yes, we can provide them on the website – www.westfield.in.gov

Q: Who do the neighborhoods contact for the City?

A: Ken Alexander

Director of Public Works

Office: (317) 804-3103

Kalexander@westfield.in.gov

Questions arose on how to judge what standard the contractors can go by. City says it's impossible to tell, but will do our best. An argument was made to take out some of the verbiage to make the agreement clearer. Council and the Mayor will look it over and adjust as needed.

Q: How many plows in each quadrant?

A: Depends on many variables, such as amount of snow, ice, weather, etc...

Q: What will happen when utility sells?

A: We have a contingency plan in place. Residents will not see a difference.

IV. Speed Limit Changes

The following changes are presented for an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Ordinance

- Increase the speed limit of 151st St from Gray Rd to Carey Rd from 30 mph to 40 mph
- Increase the speed limit of 169th St from Gray Rd to Carey Rd from 30 mph to 40 mph
- Decrease the speed limit of 156th St from Oakridge Rd to Towne Rd from 50 mph to 45 mph
- Decrease the speed limit of Ditch Rd from 146th St to SR 32 from 50 mph to 45 mph
- Decrease the speed limit of Springmill Rd 146th St to SR 32 from 45 mph to 40 mph

Safety is primary concern. A criterion used has to do with line of sight, angle of turn, correction time, etc. Recommendations came from engineering staff. Once certified, the recommendation was sent to Council.

Q: Oak Road to slow. Was it considered for a speed limit raise?

A: Yes, line of sight issue before we raise it.

Q: Can we add additional signs in neighborhoods to slow traffic?

A: Call Police and they will concentrate on area. We could also install speed bumps with cost sharing. Sign up with Ken Alexander, Director of Public Works.

IV. US 31 Update

Jason Rowley, from RQAW, talked about the mission of the US31 project and gave a brief overview of the Carmel section before talking about the Westfield sections

Below is a link to Jason's presentation slides:

http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/documents/1380202161_87128.pdf

Quick notes:

- Corridor through Westfield to be complete by December 2015.
- Until late this year, motorists must go to Greyhound to head north on US31 and use 151st to go south.

Q: Does SR32 go under US31

A: Yes

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Q: How do motorists access Barnes and Noble/Best Buy?

A: You can exit at 151st and signal will let you right in to Best Buy. To get out, make a right to 146th Street.

Q: Lots of lanes on US31 – where to push the snow?

A: 12 foot shoulders available on each side for snow.

Q: Restaurants seem buried. Will the City allow higher sign?

A: Lots of discussion. Westfield doesn't allow pole signs. So where do you draw the line? Still working out a good solution. Met with Simon already and offered to look at different signage.

Q: Is Union Street going to dead end?

A: No, it will go across US31 and connect on the west side of Target at 151st. Will be built in 2014 or 2015.

Q: Option for rumble sticks at roundabout or marking as you approach?

A: Future designs add sharp turn before roundabout to slow motorists. Lighting will also be used.

Q: 151st and Thatcher remain a light?

A: Yes

V. Wrap up Announcements, Jim Ake

The Grand Junction Derby will be taking place Oct. 5th. More information can be found here: <http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item;id=3480>

The City will hold a Grand Park “Preview and Play” event on Oct. 19 from 1pm – 5pm. The community is invited for tours and to view progress. More information will be available at www.grandpark.com and our City website in the coming days.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, October 29, at 7pm** at the Westfield City Services Center located at 2728 E. 171st Street.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov. For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under the “Community Links” tab.